600 participate in sports dept cycling event

By Our Sports Reporter

LAHORE: The Punjab Sports Department on Sunday organised a cycling event that was participated in by 600 male, female and child cyclists.

Ali Hassan and Fatima Tahira won the men's and women's cycle races, respectively, while Azan Adeel topped the children's category.

In the men's section, M Mughal was the runner-up, while Ali Nasir stood third.

In the women's category, Noorul Huda remained runner-up, while Zainab Chohan finished third.

In the Children's category, M Talha and Ayan Adeel bagged second and third positions, respectively.

Punjab Minister for Sports Malik Faisal Ayub Khokhar also participated in the 12-km cycle ride.

After the completion of four races, the closing ceremony was held at the National Hockey Stadium, where the sports minister distributed cash prizes among the top position-holders.

Panic at zoo as five monkeys escape enclosures

By Our Correspondent

BAHAWALPUR: Five monkeys escaped from their cages in the Bahawalpur Zoo allegedly due to the negligence of the zoo's staff and created panic among the hundreds of visitors present inside the zoo on Sunday.

The zoo was jam packed due to the holiday and a large number of students of all ages were also present at the zoo. The five animals, including two large and three small monkeys, escaped from their cages and made their way to the open lawns. The large number of visitors were taken aback by their presence and it created panic especially among the children as the visitors started to run after seeing the animals.

The monkey climbed on the trees, a nearby mobile phone tower and private buildings, also frightening their residents.

The zoo staff, security guards and police swung into action to capture the escaped animals and lock them back into their enclosures. However, many of the monkeys climbed on trees creating problems for the rescuers. After hours-long efforts, the workers and guards were able to capture the monkeys by climbing on the trees on a ladder.

Curator Shehbaz Mann claimed that four monkeys were caught and locked in their respective cages. The fifth small brown monkey climbed on a mobile company's tower outside the zoo premises, where thousands of people gathered to see its acrobatics. It was eventually also caught by the rescuers after a long struggle.

The curator claimed that the monkeys managed to escape from their cages when they were being fed by their keepers.

Locals expressed their surprise over the 'negligence' of the zoo staff that resulted in the escape of dangerous animals that created panic among the visitors. They said that anyone could have been injured due to the negligence of the zoo staff . They demanded strict action against the officials responsible for this major lapse.

Lawyers, legal experts dissect 27th Amendment, highlight its issues

By Irfan Aslam

LAHORE: Lawyers and legal experts sat together in a session, The State of Constitution: the 27th Amendment, on the last day of Afkar-e-Taza ThinkFest to dissect the recent amendment to the Constitution.

Lawyer Asad Rahim Khan said the 27th Amendment should be seen in relation to the 26th Amendment as it was a plan to do away with another plan.

"From 2009 until 2023, or from the restoration of Justice Iftikhar Chaudhry to the retirement of Justice Umar Ata Bandial, this period is considered an era of independent judiciary whether you praise it or criticise it, the authority that was used during this period was unprecedented in the history of Pakistan. The 26th Amendment reversed it."

Khan said the executive or the government used to decide appointments of judges from 1947 until the lawyers movement in the Musharraf era when it was decided the appointments would be made by the commission whose majority would consist of judges. "As per the 26 Amendment, the majority of judicial commission consisted of non-judicial members and the government's say was prevalent but the 27th Amendment went a step further for the Constitutional Court."

He said after the 27th Amendment, the appellate courts could now take only rent and family cases and all basic rights like right to opinion, right to vote and right movement would be heard by the federal constitutional court, selected by the executive.

"Its objectives were stated to be to end the pendency of cases, maintain seniority of judges, and constitutional matters would be heard by the judges having expertise in the constitution," he added that pendency in the Supreme Court was only 2.8pc. Regarding the seniority of judges, he said, the chief justice of the federal constitution court was not the senior most, chief justice of Pakistan was also not the senior most, the chief justice of the Islamabad High Court was not the senior most and he was called from the Lahore High Court to Islamabad to make him the senior most judge. The third objective of the amendment was stated to be expertise but a majority of judges in the federal constitutional court had expertise in criminal or civil cases only.

Asad Rahim Khan said there were some cases which, though were in favour of the state, were not liked by the government like the '90 days case', army courts and letter of the judges of the Islamabad High Court, the amendment was brought keeping these developments in mind.

"The federal constitutional court's decisions are binding on all courts but the decisions of the supreme court are not binding on the constitutional court. You decimated the authority of the Supreme Court with just a stroke of pen," he declared.

Lawyer Abdul Moiz Jafri said the amendment was introduced just to capture power. He endorsed the arguments of Asad, saying that on the excuse of expertise, the 'unwanted judges' were being transferred away from the centre, adding that the intent behind the amendment was the capture and subjugation. "They wanted to dismantle the ecosystem of democracy."

Lawyer Reema Omer referred to the 'revolutionary legality' principle of Austrian jurist Hans Kelsen and in Pakistan that concept was used to give legitimacy to the martial law, which meant that after the revolution, a dictator could do anything as per his whims and it would get legitimacy.

"In Pakistan, Hans Kelsen was used for the same purpose many years back." The idea of Kelsen is also behind the constitutional court which said that "the dogma of parliamentary supremacy must be defeated" and there should be an order beyond the parliament and executive to see whether the parliament was following the constitution.

"When 27th Amendment was passed, law minister Azam Tarar said that time's gone when prime ministers would be hanged or sent packing but actually the constitutional court's objective was to introduce an order to check the parliament".

She said the 27th Amendment did not remove Section 62 (1) (F) that was used to remove Nawaz and Yusuf Raza Gilani from the PM office. "The same provisions could still be used to remove the current PM." She said people were tricked that the constitutional court was being introduced for supremacy of the parliament while in fact it was a check on the parliament.

Irfan Qadir had a different view from the rest of the panel, saying that the judiciary had got what it deserved and that he had been saying for a long time that the judiciary would have to reap what it was sowing. The purpose right now was to rein in a totally free judiciary that was going beyond its limits, he said and added that it was not the objective of the constitution that the judiciary would subjugate the parliament and the executive, and remove majority of judges at will. He said the judges were made at the will of the government and parliamentary leaders were being removed, the PMs were being sent home. He referred to the scathing statements of Ali Ahmed Kurd, Aitzaz Ahsen and Salman Raka against the judiciary. He added that earlier the judges tried to harm the practice of lawyers, including his own, and one chief justice was throwing the phone and misbehaving and lawyers were all silent.

Salman Akram Raja said after the February 2024 election, the powers that be realised the need to hide "the lie" after the election and this new law was tailor-made to do that. The earlier judiciary had the power to review the decisions and it was doing the same when military courts were introduced which were challenged and the Supreme Court also gave verdict against them. "After the election, there was an issue of reserved seats of women which they did not want to give to the PTI and PTI's members were declared the independent candidates". According to Mr Raja, election, military court and reserved seats were the reasons behind the 26th and 27th amendments and they were just an attempt to end democracy and dismantle the PTI.

Salman said every lawyer knew what happened to those judges who were fair and ensured justice. He said there was the rule of the jungle and anybody could be given any punishment while the 27th Amendment was a stamp on this era of subjugation. He declared that his party would continue its fight against this system.

Feisal Naqvi, lawyer, also spoke.

Punjab constitutes committees for safety check of boilers

By Mansoor Malik

LAHORE: The Punjab government has constituted district-wise committees to verify the registration and "safety parameters of boilers" – as a remedial measure after a fire at a hotel in Gulberg, Lahore claimed three lives on Saturday.

The government notified eight-member committees for all 41 districts across the province comprising the respective deputy commissioner as the convener, district police officer, assistant commissioner concerned, civil defence district officer, Rescue 1122 district officer, industries district officer, boilers inspector of the concerned circle, while the additional deputy commissioner general will serve as a member and secretary to the committee.

The respective committees have been allowed to co-opt any member.

Explaining the terms of reference (TORs) of the committees, the implementation and coordination wing of the Punjab S&GAD has stated that the committees would supervise and monitor the registration and safety parameters of boilers installed in industrial units, multi-storey buildings, hospitals, hotels, etc.

The committees will be required to submit a comprehensive report along with inspection proforma to the office of Industries DG within three days.

The government order has asked each deputy commissioner to constitute sub-committees for each tehsil or specific area, under the supervision of the assistant commissioner or a suitable officer in BS-17. It said the sub-committees shall visit the premises -- industrial units, multi-storey buildings, hospitals, hotels, etc -- where boilers had been installed to verify their registration status and ensure that annual inspections had been conducted. The sub-committees shall also identify any unregistered or unsafe boilers within the district and initiate necessary legal action in accordance with the applicable laws and rules.

Furthermore, the order said that the sub-committees would assess general safety parameters and the operational condition of boilers, along with other requisite safety measures, with particular emphasis on fire hazards, in order to prevent any untoward incidents in the future.

The S&GAD's I&C wing also provided the details of boilers registered across Punjab and nominated Mr Nawaz Cheema, the Chief Inspector of Boilers, Punjab, in case of inquiries.

The department has also attached a proforma identifying the overall checklist for the committees – organisation's address, boiler number, inspection date of boilers, date of expiry of inspection certificate, overall fire safety measures, action taken in case of non-compliance, and further remarks of the inspector.

The department has also issued a district-wise list of boiler inspectors along with their cell numbers.

Scholarships: 27 retailers held for defrauding students

By Aurang Zeb Malik

CHINIOT: The district police unearthed a scam, depriving the deserving and talented students of a total Rs4300,000 granted to them under the Punjab government's Zaver-i-Taleem Scholarship programme, arresting 27 retailers involved in the fraud.

The scam surfaced when parents of two students lodged complaints/FIRs against some retailers at Chenab Nagar police station under section 420 of the Pakistan Penal Code.

A complainant, Khalid Mehmood, a resident of Chinioti Road, Chiniot, stated that he received a call from a man, who introduced himself as an official of the Benazir Income Support Programme (Bisp), saying that his children's educational stipend can be collected from him near the River Chenab Park.

The complainant said that when he went there,four unidentified persons with a vending machine and a biometric device, apparently tried to take his fingerprints. However, Mr Khalidwas told that the biometric machine was facing an error.

He said that later he came to know that the suspects had withdrawn Rs36,000 meant for his children's scholarship granted under the Punjab government's "Zaiver-i-Taleem Programme" by fraudulently taking his fingerprints.

Similarly, another complainant, Ms Anum Shahzadi of Mohallah Mustafaabad, Lalian town, said in her FIR registered on December 31, 2025, that she was called at Chenab Nagar, where four suspects sitting along a road got her fingerprints and deprived her of Rs24,000, meant for her children's scholarship.

Taking notice of the complaints, the district police, through a network of informers, traced 27 retailers involved in the scam and arrested them.

The police claim that the arrested suspects not only confessed to have committed the fraud, but also surrendered a total sum of Rs4300,000 and the electronic gadgets used to plunder the innocent parents, depriving their children of the educational scholarship.

DPO Dr Naveed Atif, during a press conference, said the amount recovered from the suspects would be returned to the affected parents after verification.

He also warned parents of such scams and advised them not to fall prey to the scammers, and inform police and the department awarding the scholarships about these fraudsters. He also asked the parents to withdraw such biometric-related amounts from trusted shopkeepers only.

Five arrested in separate cases of raping minors

By Our Correspondent

TOBA TEK SINGH: As many as five accused were arrested for allegedly raping minors in separate cases from different areas of Faisalabad.

In one case, the Mureedwala Police arrested a prayer leader of the village mosque for raping a 15-year-old girl and blackmailing her for 18 months.

The victim's uncle in his complaint to the police claimed that his niece was learning the Holy Quran from the accused's wife, who forcibly raped her and made a video of the incident on his mobile phone.

He said that he continued blackmailing and raping her for one and a half year. He claimed that the accused then shared the video with his friend, who took Rs70,000 from the victim's mother by threatening her with the video.

Police said the both accused had been arrested and investigations were ongoing.

In another case, the Nishatabad Police arrested three accused for allegedly gang-raping a minor boy after luring him to an outhouse. Police claimed that they also made a video of the act and shared it on social media.

LITERARY NOTES

Bibliography and Urdu bibliographies

By Rauf Parekh

IT is a common sight in our country to see students running from one library to another to find source material for their assignments or theses. If they can find some material on the topic at all, they can't be just sure that they have landed all the primary and secondary sources and a nagging voice inside their head keeps them telling "what if some important source is left out?" The solution to the problem is simple: bibliographies.

Bibliography is "the systematic cataloguing, study and description of written and printed works, especially books," says *Encyclopedia Britannica*. According to *Concise Oxford English Dictionary*, a bibliography is a list of sources referred to in a particular work or a list of books of a specific author. A list of books on a particular subject is also called bibliography. The carefully prepared bibliographies, often listing works author-wise, subject-wise and title-wise, can prove to be a boon to students and researchers.

There has been a dearth of bibliographies and reference works in Urdu. It was Moulvi Abdul Haq who planned to publish Urdu's voluminous bibliographies and '*umhaatul kutub*' (mother books) and had published many of them, under the aegis of Anjuman Taraqqi-i-Urdu, before he died in 1961. Another institution that has worked hard to address that lacuna is the National Language Authority (NLA). Established in 1979, the NLA began preparing the essential terminologies, books on official correspondence, dictionaries, glossaries and other reference material, such as bibliographies. So far the NLA has published, in addition to some 800 books, about 125 bibliographies and booklets for reference purposes.

These bibliographies and booklets, when first published in the 1980s and 1990s, had become so popular that they virtually flew off the shelves and just a few copies were left, which were intentionally saved as an office record. At a later stage, the NLA was renamed as the National Language Promotion Department (NLPD). Now the NLPD has begun reprinting those bibliographies and other reference booklets by putting them in book form, with fresh and computerised calligraphy. Three such volumes have recently been published, putting together bibliographies or booklets that elaborate different aspects of Urdu literature, Urdu language, especially bibliographies of some well-known writers and poets of Urdu.

Researchers and students had been desperately looking for those bibliographies and they used to get them photocopied, says Dr Saleem Mazhar, the current director general, in his intro to the third and the latest book published in the series, titled *Kitabiyat 2*. The series has been named "Muqtadira Ke Kitaabche", or the booklets by Muqtadira, that is, the NLA. The latest volume includes nine bibliographic booklets on some big names and they proffer vital information on primary and secondary sources and they are: *Mirza Ghalib* (by Inamul Haq Kausar), *Khwaja Hyder Ali Aatish* (by Sabir Kalorvi), *Imam Bakhsh Nasikh* (by Sabir Kalorvi), *Muhammaduddin Fauq* (by Ajmal Niazi), *Salahuddin Ahmed* (by Anwer Sadeed), *Mumtaz Shirin* (by Anwaar Ahmed), *Saleem Ahmed* (by Musharraf Ahmed), *Syed Abdullah* (by Jameel Ahmed Rizvi) and *Khwaja Mir Dard* (by A. D. Naseem).

The first volume, published a couple of years ago and titled *Kitabiyat 1*, had the following 10 bibliographic booklets compiled in one volume: *Aziz Ahmed* (by Mirza Hamid Baig), *Sa'adat Hasan Manto* (by Ali Sana Bukhari), *Agha Hashr Kashmiri* (by A. B. Ashraf), *Masood Hasan Rizivi Adeeb* (by Tahir Taunsvi), *Syed Abid Ali* (By Abdur Rauf Sheikh), *Naseem Hijazi* (by Tasadduq Husain Raja), *Ishtiaq Husain Qureshi* (by Moinuddin Aqeel), *Khalifa Abdul Hakeem* (by Mumtaz Gohar), *Hakeem Ahmed Shuja* (by A. B. Ashraf) and *Deputy Nazeer Ahmed* (by Iftikhar Ahmed Siddiqi). Both the volumes have been compiled by Dr Rashid Hameed, a scholar and the executive director at the NLPD. In his intro to the first volume, Rashid Hameed has mentioned that the NLPD intends to reprint all those booklets in several volumes and bibliographies in the book form. These booklets are being published chronologically, according to the years in which the first edition had appeared. Secondly, adds Dr Rashid, the contents and texts of the first editions of the booklets have not been altered.

Another volume in the series is titled *Jahaan-i-Urdu*. Compiled by Dr Arif Husain, it includes the booklets that describe teaching of Urdu in various countries of the world. These countries are: Italy, Great Britain, Burma (now Myanmar) Turkey (now Turkiye), Japan, China and Saudi Arabia. Dr Arif has rightly pointed out in his preface that these booklets reflect the facts about teaching of Urdu in foreign lands at the time of publication of these booklets and now they serve as historical record as well as reference.